



ENERGY MATCHMAKERS

Forming Partnerships to make the homes of low-income people more livable and affordable

Background

The Energy Matchmakers Program increases resources for low-income weatherization by leveraging local matching dollars. Washington communities receive Energy Matchmakers funds when they provide a dollar-for-dollar match.

The Energy Matchmakers Program was created in 1987 to allocate over \$13 million in oil overcharge settlement funds over a period of several years. The oil overcharge funds have since been depleted. However, in 1991, the Legislature adopted a six-year budget plan authorizing the use of \$8 million in state capital funds each biennium through the end of the 1995-97 biennium. By the end of the 1999-01 biennium a total of \$32.7 million in capital funds had been allocated for this successful program. \$11 million has been allocated for the 2001-03 biennium.

Benefits

This program forms partnerships that doubles the value of the state capital funds spent on low-income weatherization. It has helped to form lasting partnerships between local weatherizing agencies and utilities, rental owners and other match providers.

Results

During the first eight years, Energy Matchmakers helped weatherize more than 27,000 homes with \$34 million of program funds combined with a dollar-for-dollar match from public and private utilities, rental owners, and local governments.

By June 30, 2001 the Energy Matchmakers program weatherized 33,000 homes, using a total of \$43 million of Matchmakers funds combined with an equal share in leveraged matching funds.

For more information

Contact Carolyn Wyman, at 360\586-0495 or e-mail carolynw@cted.wa.gov.